If it is released, I will be able to give pronouncements with regard to National Highways. Otherwise, as far as the present position of funds is concerned, I could not pronounce any new National Highway. We hope that it will be cleared by the Cabinet. We will be able to say something about National Highways only after it is cleared by the Cabinet.

SHRI B.R. PATIL : Regarding development of National Highways, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that the on-going works have been delayed due to difficulty in land acquisition etc. I would like to put a specific question regarding National Highway No. 13 between Bijapur and Bangalore. It also touches Chitradurga where National Highway No. 4 is already there. Due to non-availability of funds, about 100 kilometres of road is in a very bad condition and every day thousands of vehicles are moving on that road.

Sir, this road had been opened to public traffic for the last 11 years. In spite of the request made by the Government of Karnataka, sufficient funds have not been provided to National Highway No. 13. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is going to provide sufficient funds for completion of another 100 kilometres which is in a very bad condition.

SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the main question is general in nature, but a specific question has been asked regarding a particular State. Therefore, I require a separate notice.

Resource Crunch in Defence Forces

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*165. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the defence forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of Government to the shortage of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirement of funds for the defence forces?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) Allocation to Defence is made from within the overall resource availability keeping in view requirements of national security and other sectors of the economy. Currently, a total of Rs. 32000 crores have been provided to the Defence forces in BE 1997-98 to meet their essential maintenance and modernisation needs. In addition, Rs. 3620 crores have also been provided for meeting the expected liability on account of the recommendations of Vth Pay Commission. The Government stands committed to adequately provide any additional requirement of capital expenditure during the course of the year.

(c) A detailed exercise has been carried out by the Ministry of Defence in the recent past in consultation with the Service Hqrs. to assess the essential fund requirements of the Defence Services. This is currently under active consideration of the Government.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation is very piquant with the Government that the reply has no relevance with the question which is :

[English]

> "whether the Defence Forces have been facing resource crunch to meet its current and projected requirements and whether the Army Chief has invited the attention of the Government to the shortage of funds;"

[Translation]

It has not been mentioned anywhere. The fact remains that the Army Chief of our country wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister informing him that the army was facing economic crisis which had been adversely affecting the defence capabilities of the country. He has drawn the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that the entire world knows about that but the Government did not give the reply to that. Whether he had drawn their attention or not? If he has drawn the attention then in what way? Nothing has been mentioned about the economic crisis they have been facing. No reply is being given by the Government. It has been mentioned in the Budget data that 36000 crore rupees have been granted. What new thing the Government has given? The reply to the question which we had raised is not there in his reply. The question is something else and the reply is something else. It is an amazing happening. I would like to know through you if the Army Headquarters had asked for 12666.75 crore rupees for modernisation and reinforcing the equipment supplies whereas the Ministry sanctioned 10024.90 crore rupees only. The Finance Ministry sanctioned 7357 crore rupees which was almost fifty percent of the projected requirement of the Army. The fifty percent was sanctioned by the Finance Ministry and the hon. Finance Minister gave the statement that he would sanction whatever amount is asked for Defence. What is this? This is the report of the Standing Committee and the entire House has recommended that this amount should be received by you. It has also been mentioned in it there is the

resource crunch. See, I would like to mention it here also that he had written to this extent :

[English]

> "In real terms, the hike in Defence Forces Estimate for 1997-98 is only notional."

[Translation]

Only a nominal increase has been made and they have repeatedly said that they need more amount. The Defence Department has asked for 4620 crore rupees more for modernisation and you have received 1279 crore rupees only. I would like to know from the Government that keeping in view all this, do you have the resource crunch or not? Would you inform about this or not? Would the army of the country get full arms commensurate with their actual requirement or not? The way Pakistan is piling up arms...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Joshi ji, please conclude now.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please tell me, why your Defence Budget is depleting every year. I would also like to ask as to what percent of the GDP is being spent in our country, as compared to Pakistan and China, on defence? Please mention their and our percentage. Later on, it should also be mentioned whether there is resource crunch for the Indian army or not?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank hon. Joshi ji that he has raised a very important question since the Government has been saying it time and again that no stone would be left unturned to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation. I extend my thanks for the same. He has drawn the attention of both the Government and nation by raising this issue seriously.

As far as the question of 32 thousand crore rupees is concerned, it is alright that the provision of 32 thousand crore rupees has been made. The remaining three thousand crore rupees would be spent on the Fifth Pay Commission. It is correct that the Defence Ministry and the heads of the Forces have written letters to the Finance Ministry and to Mr. Prime Minister. Due to that, the Finance Minister while presenting the budget had assured the entire House that the required amount would be made available for procurement of the necessary arms and ammunitions. Likewise you might have observed that last year the budget of 27-28 thousand crore rupees was allocated, but later on it went upto 29 thousand. I would like to assure the House that as far as the defence is concerned, the required amount would be made available for this purpose. As far writing the letter, it is also true that not only they but we also have written letters and have been writing to the Finance Ministry and the hon. Prime Minister also and have been making efforts to get more and more funds from them. Besides, we have requested them to make more provisions in the Ninth Plan. The decision regarding it would be taken soon.

As far as the question of expenses of defence in comparison with Pakistan and China is concerned it would have to be accepted that our expenses are less than their. You have raised the issue of GDP in comparison with Pakistan and China then their's is much and I do not know about the data. But as far as the defence of our country is concerned we have been spending 2.44 rupees which is quite lesser than that is being spent in Pakistan and China. We have been making efforts to spend more and more and to fulfil the requirement.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has accepted the paucity of funds. There is paucity of funds for the Navy, Air Force and the Military. The Government admits it and have been saying that more provisions would be made in the Ninth Plan. The Navy takes much time in construction work. It has been mentioned in the report of the Standing Committee that :-

[English]

> "On the capability side, the Indian Navy's inventory of ships has been on the decline as no order for indigenous construction of ships has been placed since 1986 due to constraints of funds. As regards submarines, the Navy at present has about 70 per cent of the projected force levels of submarines envisaged in their 15-Year Perspective Plan. This will deteriorate further with the decommissioning of first class submarines and scheduled refit, repairs-cum-modernisation of other submarines etc., etc."

[Translation]

These things cannot be made in one day. If you want to develop the Navy, construct the ships and submarines, then these cannot be made in 10-15 days or in one or two months. Again, the same situation prevails in the Air Force. Likewise, if there is paucity of funds for purchasing arms then when would these be bought. I would like to know if the Ninth Five Year Plan has been prepared or not? The Standing Committee has said that the Ninth Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. When the plan has not been finalised what would happen. I would like to know if the plan for the Ninth Five Year Plan has been fully finalised or not? What is your final recommendation, has the Cabinet approved that and whether the necessary resources are being mobilised for it?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : As far as economic crisis is concerned, it would have to be agreed that the country is facing economic crisis but efforts are being made to improve the present condition. Whatever economic crisis be there in the country, for the Defence

purpose, there would be no compromise in the name of economic crunch...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb. There are some other hon. Members who want to ask questions. Why are you disturbing?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member, is concerned due to curtailment in the defence budget allocations during the last few years and therefore it seems to be difficult to make it up within one or two years. Even then the Government has been making efforts to make it up within two years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh Prabhu will put the question now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think he has every right to ask a question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have lost a lot of time saying "because and because". I am not responsible for that.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Out of 37 countries in Asia, India stands 35th in defence expenditure. The per capita expenditure on defence by India is only 8.7 dollars per person. It is deteriorating very fast. On the other hand, Pakistan is acquiring surface-to-air missiles. The new amendment passed in the Senate of USA makes it possible for Pakistan to acquire arms from USA. On the other hand, we are reducing our defence expenditure. You are saying that the Government has written a letter. You are saying that you have written a letter to the Prime Minister. The defence forces are writing a letter to you.

MR. SPEAKER : It is over. Whatever statement you wanted to make, you have made it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : A debate on this issue should take place. It is a very important subject. Kindly allow half an discussion. The Minister agrees for it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is a very important issue. There should be a discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : We have started a discussion on the Ninth Plan Approach Paper. We are supposed to continue with the discussion on the Ninth Plan Approach Paper during this Session. That is the time when you can raise all these questions.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The hon. Minister wants to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have not started Government Business so far. We have a lot of business before us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Near Air Collision

*166. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details and reasons of the incidents in which the aircraft averted from the near collissions in the air during the last four months, month-wise;

(b) the details of inquiries conducted in this regard alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether in any of such case the Airport Authority of India has suspended the Air Traffic Controller who almost guided the two planes to disaster;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the security and prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Two air-miss incidents have been reported in the Indian skies during the last four months. The details are as under :

Date	Airlines involved	Reasons
1	2	3
2.4.1997	Air India and United Airlines	Reduced range of the Air Surveillance Radar, existence of cloudy weather and the Controller's failure to provide the vertical separation between the aircraft.
22.6.1997	Romanian Airlines and Gulf Air	The Radar Controller at Delhi Airport instructed the arriving Romanian aircraft to descend on Radian 255 to 17000 feet while clearing the departing Gulf Air aircraft to climb to